The facilities of surgical intervention and chemotherapy are available in almost all major hospitals in the country. The Government have no plans to establish hospitals exclusively for treatment of cancer patients, during the 8th/9th Five Year Plan. But funds are provided to various institutions for expanding the existing facilities.

(e) and (f). Financial assistance is provided to private institutions for cabalt therepy units as well promotion of health education and detection of cancer.

Increase in Teenage Pregnancies and Motherhood

2148. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether percentage of teenage pregnancies and teenage motherhood has been on the increase;

(b) if so, the State-wise teenage pregnancies and motherhood during each of the years 1991-92 to 1995-96 in absolute terms and as percentage of the whole;

(c) whether raising the marriageable age of girls is considered as one of the most effective measures for containing population growth; and

(d) if so, the steps taken and being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1978 raises the legal age at marriage from 15 to 18 years for girls and from 18 to 21 years for boys. The census data reveals that the mean age at marriage for girls has already moved beyond 18 to 18.33 (Census 81). To further create consensus to delay "gouna" and age at marriage, awareness programmes are being implemented through electronic media, street plays, song and drama and opinion creating camps at village level.

[Translation]

Snow and Avalanche Study Office in H.P.

2449. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Snow and Avalanche Study establishment office is functioning efficiently in Manali, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh for the last several years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to transfer its sub-offices from Manali to Chandigarh in a phased manner;

(c) if so, whether the snow required for research by this office is available in Manali in adequate quantity in natural form and the climate of Himachal Pradesh is also best suited for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons for shifting of the sub-offices of this establishment from Manali to Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment office (SASE) at Manali location was functioning efficiently till 4 Sep 95 when the heavy floods caused severe damage to its building and infrastructure.

(b) and (c). The 'Observatories' of SASE which are used for data collection relating to snow & avalanche and the cold laboratory have not been shifted and will continue to function from their existing locations. The Manali office which provided administrative and technical support for analysis of the observatory data and prediction of avalanche has been temporarily shifted to Ramgarh, Panchkula in the campus of sister laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation, till safe and viable alternative site is finalised.

(d) In the interest of continuity of activities of SASE, its Manali office had to be shifted temporarily to the campus of a sister laboratory at Ramgarh, Panchkula because it was not possible to function from Manali due to extensive damage to buildings and other infrastructure of SASE caused by heavy floods. Manali location of SASE had become flood prone due to change of course of river Beas. Alternative site is sought from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

Ezhimala Naval Academy

2450. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take immediate steps to speed up the work of Ezhimala Naval Academy in Kerala and to complete its work during the year 1997-98 in the interest of the country and security point; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). As per Government approval accorded in March, 1995, the Naval Academy Project is planned to be executed over a period of 8 years (1995-2002). The Academy is scheduled to be commissioned in 2001 with the induction of the first batch of cadets.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited

2451. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from Andhra Pradesh for capital restructuring and revival of Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam;